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MECHANIZATION OF SOVIET KRIVBASS MINES

LACK OF MECHANIZATION HINDERS PRODUCTION -- Kiev, Pravda Ukraine, 19 Aug 53

The Communist Party and the Soviet government have always been concerned with the development of the mining industry.

The 19th Party Congress made many demands of Soviet miners. They have been called upon to effect a threefold increase in iron-ore production capacity during the Fifth Five-Year Plan. Iron ore output must also be increased by the exploitation of new mines, shafts, and concentration plants as well as by the continuing improvement of existing mines and further mechanization.

The mechanization of the principal Krivbass mining processes is as follows: drilling 100 percent, ore delivery 97 percent, underground haulage 98.5 percent, loading at the face 77 percent, loading at the surface 99 percent.

There are now twice as many drills in the Krivbass as in 1940, 4.4 times as many loaders, 2.9 times as many scraper winches, and 2.5 times as many excavators.

The Krivbass mines have received new drilling apparatus for the deep drilling of soft ores.

Despite this gain, the Soviet mining industry is still lagging in the mechanization of auxiliary mining processes. Only 16 to 21 percent of all mining personnel are actually engaged in mining per se. Every effort should be made to increase this percentage in the near future.

The greatest weakness is that the Krivbass mines were mechanized sporadically and not according to any over-all plan. As a result, some relatively insignificant processes are mechanized while other, more basic, processes remain manually serviced to this day.

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The Scientific Research Ore Mining Institute (NIGRI) is the only research institute under Glavrud (Main Administration for Ore Mining) and the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry USSR. It is unable to cope with its expanded program and should be enlarged.

KRIVBASS MINERS SCORED -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 15 Aug 53

The Zaporozh'ye Metallurgical Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze is failing to fulfill its pig iron production norms. Although there are many contributing factors, this fault is largely attributable to the poor operation of the Krivbass miners. The plant's principal suppliers are the Mines imeni Dzerzhinskiy and imeni Karl Libknekht. Since the iron content of the ore in the two mines varies, a uniform furnace charge may be assured only by the simultaneous shipment of ore from both mines. It is therefore essential that each mine fulfill its daily norm. Such has not been the case, however. One day one mine will fall short of its norm while the other will exceed it; the next day, the reverse situation will be true. Thus, a balance is seldom struck.

Under these conditions it is impossible to ascertain a normal ore average and, as a result, production suffers.

The mines should also take care to schedule uniform daily shipments and not delay delivery to the last days of the month, thus swamping the railroad yards, unloading facilities, and personnel.

INEFFICIENCY AT KRIVBASS MINES -- Moscow, Pravda, 29 May 53

Although the Krivbass mines are a major source of iron ore, the Krivbass-ruda Trust failed to fulfill its 1952 norm. The 1953 record thus far is also singularly poor. The Mine imeni Kaganovich fails to make full use of its equipment. The Mine Administration imeni Roza Lyuksemburg allows its machinery to stand idle 50 percent of the time. At the Tsentral'naya Mine and Mine No 5 of the Mine Administration imeni Frunze, it is a common occurrence for perforator drills to lie idle for 2 hours per shift because of the lack of compressed air. Excavators are used inefficiently at the Mine imeni Il'ich. Workers at the Gigant Mine frequently report for work an hour late and leave before quitting time.

This tragic record makes a travesty of socialism and blackens the names of the supervisors responsible.

GIGANT MINE MECHANIZED -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 28 May 53

The Gigant Mine is highly mechanized and serves as a laboratory for testing new mining techniques and developments. The mine is exceeding its norm at the rate of one ton of ore for every twelve mined.

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